

Torrance, California
February 10, 1948

MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING
OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF
THE CITY OF TORRANCE

The City Council of the City of Torrance convened in a Regular Meeting in the Council Chamber, City Hall, Torrance, California, on Tuesday, February 10, 1948, at 8:10 p.m.

Mayor Sherfey called the meeting to order.

Clerk Bartlett called the roll, those answering present being Councilmen: Buxton, Gilbert, Jackson, Tolson and Sherfey. Absent: Councilmen: None.

All those present in the Council Chamber saluted the Flag.

Councilman Buxton moved that the "Minutes of a Regular Meeting held January 27, 1948 be approved as written. Councilman Gilbert seconded the motion which was carried unanimously.

WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS

A communication was read from Joseph Rowe, 4236 W. 171st Street, Lawndale, presenting claim against the City for damage to his person and automobile in the sum of \$1011.90, caused by a Torrance Municipal Bus colliding with his automobile on December 28, 1947 at the intersection of Greenwood and Sonoma.

Councilman Gilbert moved that the claim be denied and that the communication be referred to the City Attorney and the City's insurance carrier. Councilman Tolson seconded the motion which was carried unanimously.

A communication signed by six residents living in the vicinity of 182nd Street adjacent Florence Avenue, was read advising of the lack of facilities for obtaining water for domestic use and requesting that the necessary pipe lines be laid as soon as possible.

Councilman Gilbert moved that the communication be referred to the City Engineer for checking and recommendation. Councilman Tolson seconded the motion which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from the North Torrance Improvement Association requesting that the City Council state definitely when water pipe lines will be laid in their district, and also inquiring when the Metropolitan water could be brought into North Torrance.

Councilman Tolson declared that no one can say definitely when the pipe line can be laid but that he is in favor of purchasing the pipe if there is sufficient money in the bond fund.

There was considerable discussion regarding the possibility of purchasing the necessary pipe on the open market.

Mr. Stanger, Manager, Water District, advised that the district is under contract to purchase pipe from the United States Pipe Company, but that if the contract were cancelled the pipe could be purchased on the open market at less cost.

Councilman Tolson moved that the matter of cancelling contract with the United States Pipe Company for the purchase of pipe material be referred to the City Attorney for recommendation to the Council. Councilman Gilbert seconded the motion which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from Mr. L. A. Mann, President, Royal Mutual Water Company, requesting the approximate completion date of the Metropolitan water line to serve the vicinity of 182nd Street and Prairie Avenue.

Mayor Sherfey stated that the action taken on the North Torrance Improvement Association letter also takes care of the above inquiry.

A communication was read from Chas. T. Rippey, Attorney, advising that in the case of Benner vs. McMaster, et al., Case No. 530, 380, Superior Court, judgment has been rendered directing the City of Torrance to pay J. J. Benner the sum of \$420.00, representing

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wages due him for the period commencing January 10, 1947 and ending February 25, 1947.

Mr. Rippy advised that the provisions of Ordinance No. 249 authorizing the filing of claims against employees by the Chiefs of the Fire Department and/or Police Department were so indefinite, vague and uncertain as to be unconstitutional, that it be amended so as to set forth specifically charges which could be filed against employees and the punishment to be imposed in event of violation, and that said amendment be submitted to the voters at the April election.

Mayor Sherfey asked regarding the necessary procedure to place this proposition on the ballot.

Clerk Bartlett replied that it would be necessary to adopt an ordinance.

Mayor Sherfey proposed that a meeting be held to discuss this matter further.

A communication was read from Chas. T. Rippy, written at the request of Mrs. Margaret Fordice, City Treasurer, concerning the possible amendment of Section 7, Article VI of the City Charter which governs compensation for the City Clerk and the City Treasurer.

Mr. Rippy explained that the State Legislature, effective January 30, 1947, suspended the provisions of Section 5 of Article XI of the State Constitution which prohibits the increase of compensation of any municipal officer after his election or during his term of office; the suspension being authorized in cases of emergency which includes the period commencing upon the effective date of this Act and continuing until one year after hostilities terminate in each of the wars in which the United States is now engaged.

As the Charter of the City of Torrance prohibits such increases, Mr. Rippy suggested that Section 7 of Article VI be amended by vote of the people at the April, 1948 election, so as to add a proviso to said Section reading in substance as follows: "Provided, however, that the compensation of either the City Clerk or the City Treasurer may be increased by an ordinance, adopted by the City Council, during all or any part of the period during which the provisions of Section 5 of Article XI, of the California Constitution prohibiting such increases are suspended by the Legislature of the State of California as provided in said Constitution".

Councilman Gilbert moved that Mr. Rippy's communication be referred to the City Attorney for recommendation. Councilman Jackson seconded the motion which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from J. Henrich Hull, Secretary to the Board of Education, Torrance City Unified School District, enclosing a resolution in the matter of placing an amendment on the ballot for the coming April, 1948 election, for the purpose of making technical corrections in the present city charter with respect to the provisions of state law applying to unified school districts. He stated that it would be to the best interests of the schools of Torrance if the Board of Education were elected in accordance with the terms of the law of the State of California rather than in accordance with the terms of the present City Charter insofar as term of office is concerned. The Board of Education felt that this separation of the school district elections from the city elections would decrease the complications involved in electing board members and separate the issues between City Government and school policies.

Mayor Sherfey moved that a proposition be placed on the ballot at the April, 1948 election for the purpose of amending the City Charter with respect to the provisions of State law applying to unified school districts. Councilman Gilbert seconded the motion which was carried unanimously.

A petition signed by fifteen property and resident owners, located within three hundred feet of Western Avenue, was read requesting a change of zone from Heavy Manufacturing Zone M-2 to Light Manufacturing Zone M-1.

Councilman Gilbert moved that the request be referred to the Planning Commission for recommendation. Councilman Tolson seconded the motion which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from L. G. Barkdull tendering his resignation as a member of the Torrance City Planning Commission, to become effective immediately.

Councilman Gilbert moved that the matter be referred to the Council for study and action at the next regular meeting. Councilman Jackson seconded the motion which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from George W. Stevens, City Administrator, stating that the Planning Commission had approved the following tentative tract maps and recommending that the City Council concur in this action:

1. Tract No. 13822 for J. H. Pine Construction Company, located on the southeast corner of Dominguez Street and Crenshaw Blvd. This tract consists of 33 lots.
2. Tract No. 15230, owned by Dike, Driggers and Lownes and consisting of 138 lots, located north of 228th Street and west of Western Avenue.
3. Tract No. 13043, owned by L. J. Shanahan and Son and consisting of 73 lots. This tract is bounded on the north by 164th Street, on the east by Gramercy Place, on the south by 166th Street and on the west by Arlington Avenue.
4. Tract No. 11732, subdivider Mr. Homer Bales and consists of 20 lots. This tract is bounded on the east by Crenshaw Blvd. and on the south by 170th Street.
5. Tract No. 15213, submitted by Kettler Knolls, Inc. This tract is bounded on the north by the Santa Fe and Los Angeles Harbor Railway Right-of-way, on the west by Walnut Avenue, on the south by 235th Street and on the east by Western Avenue.

Councilman Gilbert moved that the Council concur in the action of the Planning Commission, and that the City Engineer be instructed to notify all subdividers that the City Council must be assured of sufficient evidence that water will be supplied before the final tract plans are approved. Councilman Jackson seconded the motion which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from George W. Stevens, City Administrator, advising that the Planning Commission approved the request of the Seaboard Engineering Company to abandon a 10 foot section on each side of Newton Avenue, between Pacific Coast Highway and Madison Street, and requesting that the City Council concur in this approval.

Councilman Gilbert moved that the Council concur in the action of the Planning Commission. Councilman Tolson seconded the motion which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from George W. Stevens, City Administrator, advising that the Planning Commission recommended for approval the Petition of Torrance Manor for reclassification of all of Tract No. 14232, located at the northeast corner of 174th Street and Crenshaw Blvd., and stating that a Public Hearing must be held before the Council not later than February 24, 1948.

Councilman Tolson moved that the Council concur in the recommendation of the Planning Commission and that a Public Hearing be held February 24, 1948 at 8:00 p.m. Councilman Gilbert seconded the motion which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from George W. Stevens, City Administrator, advising that the Final Subdivision Map for Tract No. 15157, located west of Crenshaw Blvd., between 170th Street and 174th Street, was approved by the Planning Commission subject to the posting of the necessary Improvement Bond covering all improvements within the Tract, and requesting the City Council to concur in this action.

Councilman Jackson moved that the Council concur in the action of the Planning Commission. Councilman Buxton seconded the motion which was carried unanimously.

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A communication was read from George W. Stevens, City Administrator, recommending that the Petition for Change of Zone, submitted by J. H. Pine, affecting portions of Lots 1, 2 and 3, Block 80, Torrance Tract; all of Blocks 81 and 87, Torrance Tract, and Lots 1 to 12, inclusive, Tract No. 4984, be referred to the Planning Commission for necessary action.

Councilman Gilbert moved that the Council concur in the recommendation of the City Administrator. Councilman Jackson seconded the motion which was carried unanimously.

Clerk Bartlett presented and read title to:

RESOLUTION NO. 1885

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE, CALIFORNIA, REQUESTING THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS TO MAKE ALLOCATION OF GASOLINE TAX FUNDS FOR STREET IMPROVEMENTS AS HEREINAFTER SET FORTH.

Councilman Tolson moved that further reading of Resolution No. 1885 be dispensed with. Councilman Jackson seconded the motion which was carried unanimously.

Councilman Tolson moved that Resolution No. 1885 be adopted. Councilman Jackson seconded the motion which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Buxton, Gilbert, Jackson, Tolson and Sherfey. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Councilman Gilbert informed those present that anyone desiring to read Resolution No. 1885 in its entirety could do so after the meeting.

Clerk Bartlett presented and read title to:

RESOLUTION NO. 1886

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE DECLARING APPROVAL OF A REVISED POSITION CLASSIFICATION PLAN, OF A PAY PLAN AND OF PROCEDURES FOR THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE PAY PLAN, AND DIRECTING THE CITY ATTORNEY TO PREPARE A SALARY ORDINANCE.

Councilman Gilbert moved that Resolution No. 1886 be adopted subject to the approval of the Civil Service Board. Councilman Jackson seconded the motion which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Buxton, Gilbert, Jackson, Tolson and Sherfey. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Clerk Bartlett presented and read title to:

RESOLUTION NO. 1887

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE, REGULATING THE FILING OF APPLICATIONS FOR WATER CONNECTIONS, METER SERVICES, WATER RATES, DEPOSITS, DELINQUENCIES AND DISCONTINUANCE OF WATER SERVICE.

Councilman Tolson moved that Resolution No. 1887 be adopted. Councilman Jackson seconded the motion which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Buxton, Gilbert, Jackson, Tolson and Sherfey. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Clerk Bartlett presented and read title to:

RESOLUTION NO. 1888

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE, REGULATING THE FILING OF APPLICATIONS FOR WATER CONNECTIONS, METER SERVICES, WATER RATES, DEPOSITS, DELINQUENCIES AND DISCONTINUANCE OF WATER SERVICE.

Councilman Jackson moved that Resolution No. 1888 be adopted. Councilman Buxton seconded the motion which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Buxton, Gilbert, Jackson, Tolson and Sherfey. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Clerk Bartlett presented and read title:

RESOLUTION NO. 1889

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE, REGULATING THE FILING OF APPLICATIONS FOR WATER CONNECTIONS, METER SERVICES, WATER RATES, DEPOSITS, DELINQUENCIES AND DISCONTINUANCE OF WATER SERVICE.

Councilman Gilbert moved that Resolution No. 1889 be adopted. Councilman Tolson seconded the motion which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Buxton, Gilbert, Jackson, Tolson and Sherfey. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

A communication was read from George W. Stevens, City Administrator, submitting the following recommendations for the Council's consideration and approval:

PERSONNEL

1. That Robert Wright be employed to serve the probationary term as a Patrolman, effective February 1, 1948, and that his compensation be at the rate of \$210.00 per month.

MISCELLANEOUS

1. That the City enter into a contract with Maynard Boyce, Inc. for the exclusive right to handle the advertising space and display on the Municipal busses. Said contract will extend for a period of one year commencing February 15, 1948, and may be terminated on ninety days notice thereafter. Terms of the contract will provide that the City receive 50% of the net collections from advertising. Mr. Boyce has submitted the best responsible bid for the advertising rights.
2. That the Chamber of Commerce be granted permission to erect cluster Service Club signs on the island at Cravens Street and Torrance Boulevard intersection and at Western Avenue and Torrance Blvd.

APPROPRIATIONS

That authorization of funds for the following expenditures be granted:

1. For the repair of Police Car No. 16, the sum of \$375.45, including tax. Repair to be done by Schultz and Peckham who submitted the low bid.
2. For the repair and reconditioning of two power-driven lawn mowers, the sum of \$150.00, including tax.

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3. For the purchase of 1000 gallons of L3X Bitumuls and 80 tons of crushed rock for street repairs, the sum of \$300.00.
4. For the purchase of beads for traffice line striping, the sum of \$175.00.
5. For the purchase of materials to construct an adequate entrance to the Municipal Airport from Highway 101, the sum of \$590.00, plus tax. (From Airport funds).
6. For the repair of tractor by Shaw Sales and Service Co., the sum of \$227.15, including tax. (From Airport funds.)
7. For transporting tractor to Airport, the sum of \$80.75, including tax. (From Airport funds).
8. For the purchase of a used typewriter, the sum of \$76.88, including tax, for the Building Department.

Councilman Gilbert moved that the Council concur in the recommendations of the City Administrator. Councilman Jackson seconded the motion which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Buxton, Gilbert, Jackson, Tolson and Sherfey. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Clerk Bartlett presented for first reading and read title to:

ORDINANCE NO. 400

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE
CITY OF TORRANCE ORDERING THE SUBMISSION
TO QUALIFIED ELECTORS OF THE QUESTION OF
REPEALING ORDINANCE NO. 200 PAYING COM-
PENSATION TO THE MEMBERS OF THE CITY
COUNCIL.

Councilman Tolson moved that further reading of Ordinance No. 400 be dispensed with. Councilman Jackson seconded the motion which was carried, Councilman Gilbert voting no.

Councilman Tolson moved that Ordinance No. 400 be adopted for first reading. Councilman Jackson seconded the motion which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Buxton, Jackson, Tolson and Sherfey. NOES: COUNCILMEN: Gilbert, ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Councilman Tolson moved that the City Clerk be instructed to have placed on the ballot for the forthcoming Municipal Election to be held April 13, 1948, the following proposition: Shall Article X of the Charter of the City of Torrance be amended by adding thereto a new Section to be known as Section 9 prohibiting the conduct and licensing of gambling businesses? Councilman Jackson seconded the motion which was carried, Councilman Gilbert voting no.

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

Mr. Harry Jung, International Representative, United Public Workers of America, C.I.O., whose union represents the employees of the City of Torrance, spoke on the resolution adopted by the City Council approving the salary plan and classification plan submitted by the State Personnel Board at the request of the City Council. He regretted that the Council as well as the employees had had little time to study the plan. He said that generally the plan is approved in principal and formulation for several reasons; it offers a true method of promoting employees, of classifying them, of hiring new employees and of regulating their salaries within the rate schedule, and making adjustments in accordance with prevailing wage rates. However, he said the plan had omitted the night differential which is now in effect in some places, and that the

resolution does not clarify the provision for rewarding long time, meretorious service, but he hoped when this plan goes into effect that the reward will be for meretorious performance and not to favor certain ones. It was unfortunate said Mr. Jung, that a number of men who had been working for many years for the city are on the same pay level as new employees, and that the pay classification for several park maintenance men is out of relation and should be increased.

Mr. Jung suggested that the City Council have employee representatives meet with the City Manager for the purpose of working out adjustments to the plan for recommendation to the Council, and that the Council assure the employees that the plan will be carried out. He concluded by saying that the employees he had contacted are well pleased with the plan.

Mrs. Lela Gonner of North Torrance requested the Council to reject any new subdivisions for North Torrance until there is sufficient water, saying that the people in that district who voted for the Metropolitan Water should be given first consideration.

Mr. Milburn asked if the contract with Taylor and Taylor, Engineers, was for a period of two years.

Mayor Sherfey replied that it was in effect until the water system is installed, and referred Mr. Milburn to Mr. Stanger, Manager, Water District, for further information.

Mr. Hall asked how long it would be before water could be obtained in North Torrance. There was considerable discussion on this point.

Councilman Tolson explained that the matter had been referred to the City Attorney for a solution to the problem.

Councilman Tolson moved that all bills properly audited be paid. Councilman Jackson seconded the motion which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN Buxton, Gilbert, Jackson, Tolson and Sherfey. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

At 9:08 p.m., upon motion of Councilman Tolson, seconded by Councilman Jackson, and unanimously carried, the meeting adjourned to February 17, 1948, at 7:45 p.m.

A. H. Bartlett

CITY CLERK OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE

APPROVED:

John H. Sherfey Jr.

MAYOR OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE

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